IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A picture encoding apparatus comprising:

arithmetic encoding means for applying arithmetic encoding to an input picture to generate an encoded codestream;

splitting means for splitting said encoded codestream into a plurality of layers;

packet generating means for generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another;

error correction encoding means for applying error correction encoding to data of a header ~~and/~~or a packet or packets of a predetermined ~~one or more~~number of layers; and

embedding means for embedding [[an]] respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols, of the header or the packet or packets of the predetermined number of layers, generated by said error correction encoding means in a predetermined packet or packets of at least a layer different from the predetermined number of layers.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The picture encoding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said predetermined ~~one or more~~number of layers includes at least an uppermost layer.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). The picture encoding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said embedding means substitutes said inspection symbol for either data of said packet or packets of a lower layer, a main header or a COM marker of a tile part header, or a portion of a predetermined code block or a newly added encoding pass.

Claims 4-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). The picture encoding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said error correction encoding means sets the subject entity of the error correction encoding depending on an error rate of a communication channel on which said encoded codestream is transmitted.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). A picture encoding method comprising:

an arithmetic encoding step of applying arithmetic encoding to an input picture to generate an encoded codestream;

a splitting step of splitting said encoded codestream into a plurality of layers;

a packet generating step of generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another;

an error correction encoding step of applying error correction encoding to data of a header ~~and/~~or a packet or packets of a predetermined ~~one or more~~number of layers; and

an embedding step of embedding [[an]] respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols, of the header or the packet or packets of the predetermined number of layers, generated by said error correction encoding step in [[the]]a predetermined packet or packets of at least a layer different from the predetermined number of layers.

Claims 11-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). A picture decoding apparatus supplied with an encoded codestream and decoding the input encoded codestream to restore an input picture, said encoded codestream being ~~such a one~~ obtained ~~on~~by applying an arithmetic coding to the

input picture to generate an encoded codestream, splitting the encoded codestream into a plurality of layers, generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another, applying error correction coding to data of a header ~~and~~/or a packet or packets of ~~one or more~~a number of preset layers, and ~~on~~ embedding ~~an~~ respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols generated ~~on this~~in the error correction coding in a predetermined packet or packets of at least a layer different from the number of preset layers, said apparatus comprising:

analysis means for analyzing said input encoded codestream;

extraction means for extracting said respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols from said predetermined packet or packets;

error correcting decoding means for applying error correction and decoding to data of the header ~~and~~/or a packet or packets of ~~one or more~~the number of preset layers, using said respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols extracted from the layer different from the preset layers; and

decoding means for decoding the encoded codestream following the error correction and decoding.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended). The picture decoding apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said ~~predetermined lower~~different layer at least includes ~~the~~a lowermost layer.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). The picture decoding apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said input encoded codestream has data of a packet or packets of said ~~predetermined lower~~different layer replaced by said inspection ~~symbol~~symbols; and

wherein said extraction means extracts said inspection ~~symbol~~symbols from said packet or packets of the ~~predetermined lower~~different layer, a main header or a COM marker of a tile part header, or a portion of a predetermined code block or a newly added encoding

pass, and discards the data of a packet or packets of the ~~lower~~different layer, or sets the data of a packet or packets of the ~~lower~~different layer all to zero.

Claims 16-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). A picture decoding method in which an input encoded codestream is supplied and the supplied encoded codestream is decoded to restore an input picture, said encoded codestream being ~~such a one~~ obtained ~~on~~by applying an arithmetic coding to the input picture to generate an encoded codestream, splitting the encoded codestream into a plurality of layers, generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another, applying error correction coding to data of a header ~~and/~~or a packet or packets of ~~one or more~~a number of preset layers, and ~~on~~ embedding ~~an~~respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols of the header or the packet or packets of the number of preset layers, generated ~~on this~~in the error correction coding in a predetermined packet or packets of a ~~predetermined lower~~different layer, said method comprising:

an analysis step of analyzing said input encoded codestream;

an extraction step of extracting said respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols from said predetermined packet or packets;

an error correcting decoding step of applying error correction and decoding to data of ~~a~~the header ~~and/~~or ~~a~~the packet or packets of ~~one or more~~the number of preset layers, using said respective inspection ~~symbol~~symbols; and

a decoding step of decoding the encoded codestream following the error correction and decoding.

Claims 19-40 (Cancelled).